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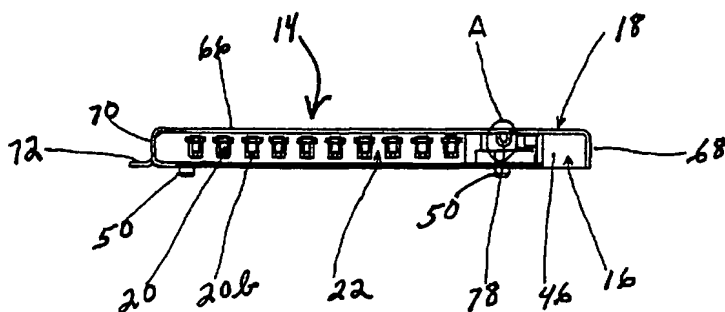
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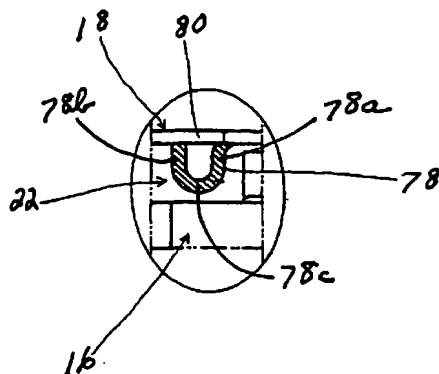
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(54) Title: MEMORY CARD CONNECTOR WITH MEANS FOR PREVENTING ERRONEOUS CARD INSERTION

a



b



(57) Abstract: A memory card connector (14) includes an insulating housing (16) defining a front receptacle area communicating with an interior cavity (22) for receiving a memory card. A plurality of terminals (20) are mounted on the housing in a side-by-side array transversely across a rear of the housing. The terminals (20) have contact portions (20b) at a rear of the cavity for engaging contacts on a top side of the memory card. A sheet metal shell (18) covers at least a portion of the insulating housing (16) and includes a cover plate overlying at least a portion of the cavity. The shell (18) has a wrong insertion-proof projection (78) formed out of the cover plate and extending downwardly into the cavity and into a slot in the top of the memory card when the card is properly inserted into the cavity. The projection prevents an erroneously inserted memory card from engaging the contact portions of the terminals. The projection (78) is bent into an elbow-shaped cross-sectional configuration to prevent scarring or cracking of the memory card when erroneously inserted into the cavity.

W 2004/032036 A1



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AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 10 May 2004 (10.05.2004);
original claims 1-7 replaced by new claims 1-7 (2 pages)]

1. A memory card connector (14), comprising:
 - an insulating housing (16) defining a front receptacle area (24) communicating with an interior cavity (22) for receiving a memory card (24);
 - a plurality of terminals (20) mounted on the housing in a side-by-side array transversely across a rear (44) of the housing, the terminals having contact portions (20b) at a rear of the cavity for engaging contacts (38) on a top side (32) of the memory card;
 - a sheet metal shell (18) covering at least a portion of the insulating housing and including a cover plate (66) overlying at least a portion of said cavity, the shell having a wrong insertion-proof projection (78) formed out of said cover plate (66) and extending downwardly into the cavity (22) and into a slot (40) in the top of the memory card when the card is properly inserted into the cavity, the projection (78) preventing an erroneously inserted memory card from engaging the contact portions (20b) of the terminals (20), and the projection being bent into elbow-shaped cross-sectional configuration to prevent scarring or cracking of the memory card (24) when erroneously inserted into the cavity.
2. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said wrong insertion-proof projection (78) is bent into a generally U-shaped configuration.
3. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said wrong insertion-proof projection (78) is bent into a generally L-shaped configuration.
4. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said wrong insertion-proof projection (78) is bent into a generally J-shaped configuration.
5. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said wrong insertion-proof projection (78) is bent into a generally V-shaped configuration.
6. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said sheet metal shell (18) includes a pair of depending opposite side walls (68,70) integral with opposite longitudinal edges of said cover plate (66).

- 2 7. The memory card connector of claim 6 wherein said side walls (68, 70) include mounting tabs (72) bent outwardly at bottom edges of the walls for mounting the connector on a circuit board.